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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Reporting Processes and Three Positives Pending Investigation

The Department of State Health Services has made some changes in the reporting process to local jurisdictions, including Jackson County. When DSHS receives a lab result, the result goes through a review by DSHS to verify the patient's address and other information. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the turnaround time for the process to notify local jurisdictions was 24 hours. The number of cases in the State, and particularly Region 8, has increased significantly. As a result, the State is experiencing a backlog. In an effort to get information out to local jurisdictions as soon as possible, DSHS will begin reporting the positives that are "Pending Investigation". A Pending Investigation means that labs have reported a positive case to DSHS with the information that the lab has, but DSHS has not investigated and verified the information. In most cases, the "Pending Investigations" will move to a "Confirmed" case once the investigation is complete, but if the lab's information about the patient was not accurate, that may not be the case. DSHS is currently reporting that Jackson County has **three positive** cases that are "Pending Investigation" making our total number of cases since the beginning 24.

"Like many of our residents I have been encouraged with Jackson County's low COVID numbers, but we shouldn't allow that to give us a false sense of security", stated Jill S. Sklar, Jackson County Judge. "Based on the new reporting and the increase in cases in our state and area, I anticipate an uptick in cases in the next week or so. With that being said, I am encouraging everyone to stay vigilant in following CDC recommendations. Getting out in the community and somewhat back to normal has been great for many of us, but we still have to take this issue seriously. Let's be smart about our interactions with others. Being conscientious and courteous to one another is the easiest way to keep everyone safe and operating business as usual," added Sklar.

The public can find up-to-date COVID-19 information at:

www.jacksoncountytxcovid19.com
<http://www.jchd.org/>
<https://dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>

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